

Community, NW officials join forces in sexual assault case

KATIE STEVENSON
News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

The Nodaway County prosecuting office is wrapping up an ongoing investigation over an alleged sexual assault on Northwest’s campus.

University Police Department received a report of sexual assault at Hudson Hall Feb. 27. Since the report, Nodaway County Prosecutor Robert Rice said no charges are being filed in this case.

Rice said the case could not be filled due to a lack of evidence in the case.

“Right now, there is no prosecution because there is not sufficient evidence to proceed with the criminal charge at this time,” Rice said. “So there is nothing that has been filed, and unless there is additional information that comes out, there will not be a criminal charge filed on this particular matter.”

The case was unique in a number of ways, including the fact that no email or report was sent to students. However, University Police Chief Clarence Green said the timeline and type of case dictated that an email was not needed.

“There are several criteria we use to determine whether we should send out an email,” Green said. “We should only send out a text or an email if it is deemed an ongoing threat. With it being over three days old when it was reported to us, as well as we had the suspect identified, as well as had him in our custody, we did not consider it an active ongoing threat to the campus.”

Rice said no substances were involved in the assault, making the case different in that way as well.

“This particular case is unique and different than some of the other ones that happen on the college campus because in this case, the person involved had not been consuming alcohol or drugs; they were not under the influence in any way,” Rice said. “They were both sober, and it was during a time when they were both awake.”

Rice said a big component lacking in any sexual assault case is respect. He stressed people should respect each other and understand the feelings of both people before going forward with any relationship.

SEE **ASSAULT** | **A5**



University graphic designer Ashlee Hendrix holds a sign during a protest for gun control at the International Flag Plaza on campus for National Walkout Day. RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Bearcats protest for gun control

RACHEL ADAMSON
Assistant News Editor | @racheladamsonxi

Northwest students and employees gathered around the International Flag Plaza to join in a nationwide protest movement to end gun violence Wednesday.

The mass protest marks one month since the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people. Students from approximately 3,000 schools across the country had students left their classrooms at 10 a.m. for 17 minutes; a minute of silence for each victim killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Young Democrat President Marissa Mallon organized the protest on campus. She said it is crucial for students to start having conversations about gun control.

“I thought it was important to bring it (National Walkout Day) to Northwest because at the state level, they’re discussing potentially eliminating gun free zones to allow conceal and carry on college campuses,” Mallon said. “This is

a huge issue for me personally; I wanted to bring light to it and gun violence in general.”

The protest started off with a moment of silence for victims of the Florida shooting. Student Senate President Katie Brown, Student Senate Vice President Alyssa Lincoln, philosophy professor James Eiswert and Mallon each gave a short speech during the protest.

Brown said the purpose of her speech was to start a conversation about gun rights and the responsibility that comes with them. Brown also said she wants people to know they have a right to hold legislators accountable.

“Certain members of Congress and certain state legislators are failing to listen to the wants and needs of their constituents,” Brown said. “They are failing to fulfill their responsibility to serve the American people of whom they represent, acting as if their role is optional.”

Lincoln said she gave a speech at the protest because she wanted to offer a unique perspective to the conversation as a gun owner.

“I hope people that attended this event felt a little burn in their heart today,” Lincoln said. “I want these people to feel called to act and take on this responsibility of demanding change. My speech was a simple call to action. That was my single hope for the event – that students felt desired to act and call their legislators and use the momentum of students around the country to demand change.”

Mallon said the University was supportive of the protest. Students who chose to miss class to go to the protest were held to the attendance policies set in place by each professor.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matthew Baker attended the protest to show his support for the students who organized the event.

“I wanted to come out to support the effort because it is hard for people to stand up for something they believe in a public way,” Baker said. “I’m always impressed when students take a stand on something and put something together to make it happen. To me, that’s always important.”

Maryville High School and Maryville Middle School had about 157 students participate in National Walkout Day.

“I’ve had this conversation with my kids, who are a high schooler and a middle schooler, that if they wanted to leave class, I would understand that; I would respect, and I would stand with them,” Baker said. “I shared with them that they could have consequences for missing class but, sometimes, that’s important. Sometimes, there are consequences for things we believe in, but I think there’s causes that are more important than the consequences.”

University graphic designer Ashlee Hendrix attended the protest, holding a sign to advocate for gun control.

“I wanted to come out and stand in solidarity with people who believe in the same things that I do; that we need control for gun violence and that we need new legislation to help with that,” Hendrix said. “I wanted to come out and show that we all are here to support each other.”

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CRYPTOCURRENCY

Sources: Bitcoin.org, Statista.com

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TAYLOR GONNERMAN | NW MISSOURIAN

Cryptocurrency creeps up on popularity scale at Northwest

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

As the popularity and prices of cryptocurrency like Bitcoin rise, more and more people, especially college students, flock to it for its profit potential.

While some handle cryptocurrency like stocks, buying when the prices are low and selling when the prices are high, more are choosing to “mine” cryptocurrency: a process where users from around the world keep the system operational for tips in cryptocurrency, which they then exchange for cash.

Bitcoin is considered the first of the “cryptocurrencies,” or monetary units that exist exclusively digitally and are unmanaged by any country. This means there is no governing body controlling when and how many units of a cryptocurrency are made, where they are or investigating fraud.

Instead, cryptocurrencies exist on worldwide, peer-to-peer networks. Rather than existing in

hackable pieces of code, all exchanges of cryptocurrency are recorded on ledgers known as blockchains. According to bitcoin.org, a blockchain’s contents are protected by cryptography and managed by users around the world.

However, ensuring the blockchain is accurate involves constant advanced mathematical calculations to be performed, which requires high-computing power and lots of electricity. This can be a financial burden to the average renter or homeowner looking to turn a profit from cryptocurrency mining, but college students living on campuses where their electricity is unlimited for a flat rate have seen an opportunity.

The online publication Quartz reported on at least five students mining cryptocurrency in the dorms at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at least one student at Stanford University and at least one student at Babson College Jan. 6.

While there are no known students who mine cryptocurrency in

Northwest’s residence halls, there are some students and faculty who invest in cryptocurrency and some who mine it off campus. Senior Bradley Taylor has mined several kinds of cryptocurrency in the past few years.

“I have been fascinated by cryptocurrencies since high school,” Taylor said. “Back in high school, I did a lot of research on cryptocurrency, and ended up purchasing specialized mining equipment known as ASIC’s (Application Specific Integrated Circuits) to mine cryptocurrencies. I bought and sold different cryptocurrencies that I mined for a profit.”

After about six months, Taylor sold his mining equipment, maintaining only his investments. However, his interest in cryptocurrency was renewed eight months ago after taking Computer Science Assistant Professor Scott Bell’s applied cryptography class and began mining again.

SEE **BITCOIN** | **A5**

Legislators seek Missouri ban on conversion therapy

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

A bill banning “conversion therapy” is being considered in the Missouri House of Representatives.

Missouri Rep. Tracy McCreery proposed the Youth Mental Health Preservation Act in January, which prevents licensed mental health care professionals from practicing “conversion therapy or sexual orientation change efforts with minors,” according to the Missouri House website.

Nine states have already passed similar legislation, according to the Columbia Missourian. Missouri is the fourth state this year to propose such a bill, according to the Missouri Times.

A study published in January by UCLA found that approximately 20,000 of today’s LGBT youth will undergo a type of conversion therapy by a healthcare professional before the age of 18.

A 2009 report by the American Psychological Association found “efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful and involve some risk of harm.” These risks include depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal and a distinct rise in suicidality,” according to the American Psychological Association.

Young Democrats and Helping Everyone Regardless of Orientation (HERO) member Tyler Bears said this bill would be a good thing for Missouri.

“It is extremely rare that any good comes from trying to force someone’s sexuality out of them,” Bears said. “It is actual mental torture. Not only are they getting away with it, but they are doing it to kids, some of the most vulnerable parts of the population.”

College Republicans member Jasper Logan said this bill is a step

in the right direction.

“No child should be subjected to conversion therapy against their will,” Logan said. “While I see no reason why adults should be prohibited from undergoing conversion therapy if they so choose, children are not old enough to make these kinds of decisions for themselves, and they are usually forced into it by their parents.”

There is one crucial loophole in the bill, which is the fact that it does not prevent unlicensed counseling, especially by religious groups or church leaders that involves sexual orientation change efforts.

In an interview with the Columbia Missourian, McCreery said this is an intentional aspect, making the bill more likely to pass in a state that is known to be conservative and religious.

Bears said this loophole should be closed; if the script was flipped and someone was attempting to convert heterosexual individuals to be homosexual as part of a religion, it would not be treated the same way.

“To be honest, that sounds like sexual persecution while using God as a shield to mistreat queer teenagers,” Bears said. “This is not a good compromise, not even close. Close the loophole.”

Bears said while he has his doubts about this bill passing due to Missouri being polarized on LGBT issues, he tries not to be too pessimistic. He said if conversion therapy continues, it will lead to worse problems in the future.

“Sexuality is not a choice,” Bears said. “Queer kids aren’t doing this out of spite; being gay isn’t some rebellious lifestyle choice. You know what is a choice, though? Love is a choice, acceptance is a choice, caring for your child’s mental and physical well-being is a choice.”

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MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
Missouri lawmakers are working to pass a bill that would illegalize the controversial treatment of conversion therapy.

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Members of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, including professor of political science Daniel Smith, Jessica Maschino and political science major Tyler Throckmorton, were drawn to the Student Union Monday afternoon for a Missouri Court of Appeals session.

Court of Appeals convenes at Northwest

MATTHEW BERRY
Chief Reporter | @TheMatthewBerry

The Missouri Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in four cases in a session at Northwest this week.

The western district of the Missouri Court of Appeals held court starting at 1 p.m. March 12. According to a press release sent by the court, this is the 10th time the court has been to Maryville.

The visit was sponsored by the political science department and the Pre-Law Society. Assistant professor Daniel Smith said the cases heard are different than what most people expect a court hearing to be.

“These are not trials; these are

appeals, and when there is a mistake at trial or a dispute over a constitutional violation or dispute over law, then you appeal,” Smith said.

Prior to the hearing, attorneys for both sides file a brief, a document that fully explains their position on the case with the court. Smith explained during the actual hearing, the attorneys make an oral argument as to why the court should rule in their favor.

Smith said these kinds of cases are really important in determining how the law works.

“Really important questions of state law get decided in this case,” Smith said.

The importance is emphasized by Smith, who explained that laws are used by the court to make a rul-

ing on certain cases.

“In a very real sense, what the law means is a prediction of what a judge will say in a case,” Smith said.

Even though most people in Missouri will never appear before the Court of Appeals, the decisions made greatly impact the public. Smith uses speeding as an example.

“The speed limit on I-70 is 70 miles per hour,” Smith said. “Is it really 70 miles per hour? If you’re going 75, what’s the likelihood of you getting pulled over? If you get pulled over, what’s the likelihood of you getting a ticket? That is at the police officers’ discretion and is in large part because of a judge.”

Pre-law Junior Megan Clasen also explained why it’s important for the public.

“One of the cases that the court is hearing is dealing with property rights and land use, which most people at some point and time in their life are going to own property,” Clasen said.

Prior to the trial, Smith said there was a lunch with the judges and pre-law students.

“The pre-law students especially love talking to the judges, and the judges love sharing their experiences,” Smith said.

Meeting the judges allows for valuable experiences for pre-law students like Clasen.

“I really am looking forward to talking to other professionals in the field,” Clasen said. “I’m getting ready to apply for law school in the fall.”


For Clasen, being able to see what she learns in the classroom is a great benefit for her.

“What stood out to me the last time I saw it was being able to watch the principles I learned in class be applied to real life situations,” Clasen said.

In addition to the hearings, this is a special year for this event. Smith said this year’s Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice, Zel Fischer, will be part of the three-judge panel. Smith said this is the first time a judge with the distinction of being the Chief Justice was in Maryville.

The verdict on the case will not be released until four-eight weeks after. The rulings can be found the Missouri Court’s website.

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A huge fan of Simply Siam, I am

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Opinion Columnist
@AnthonyProcRoss



From the moment I entered the restaurant to the second I headed out the door, Simply Siam impressed itself onto my personal list of go-to-eats in the Maryville area.

Located on Main Street, this Thai Food joint is hard to miss, and you better not because what they have to offer is too good to pass up. Having just eaten there now, after three years of frequenting Maryville and attending University, I'm hating myself for not jumping the gun sooner by making an earlier trip over.

When you walk in, you'll first notice a cozy, yet comfortable, collection of chairs to the left of booths before a friendly waiter greets you at the door to seat you. Once you sit down,

your eyes might wander to the walls and corners of the room, taking in all of the warm ambience felt mostly from the room's tactful lighting.

Simply Siam serves lunch from 11-2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and as time would have it, was just what I was hungry for. Their menu boasts a hearty variety of choices, which, while a little overwhelming at first, was still appreciated by someone wanting to go out of their comfort zone.

After my water was set in front of me, which contained not just your usual wedge of lemon, but two rings of sliced lemon, our server came to take our table's order. I inquired them about the differences in their types of curry, Paneang, Emerald and Red, but sadly wasn't met with the level of knowledge about the food I was expecting. I ended up deciding upon the Red Curry with chicken, a crab rangoon and an eggroll. I assumed that was the hottest.

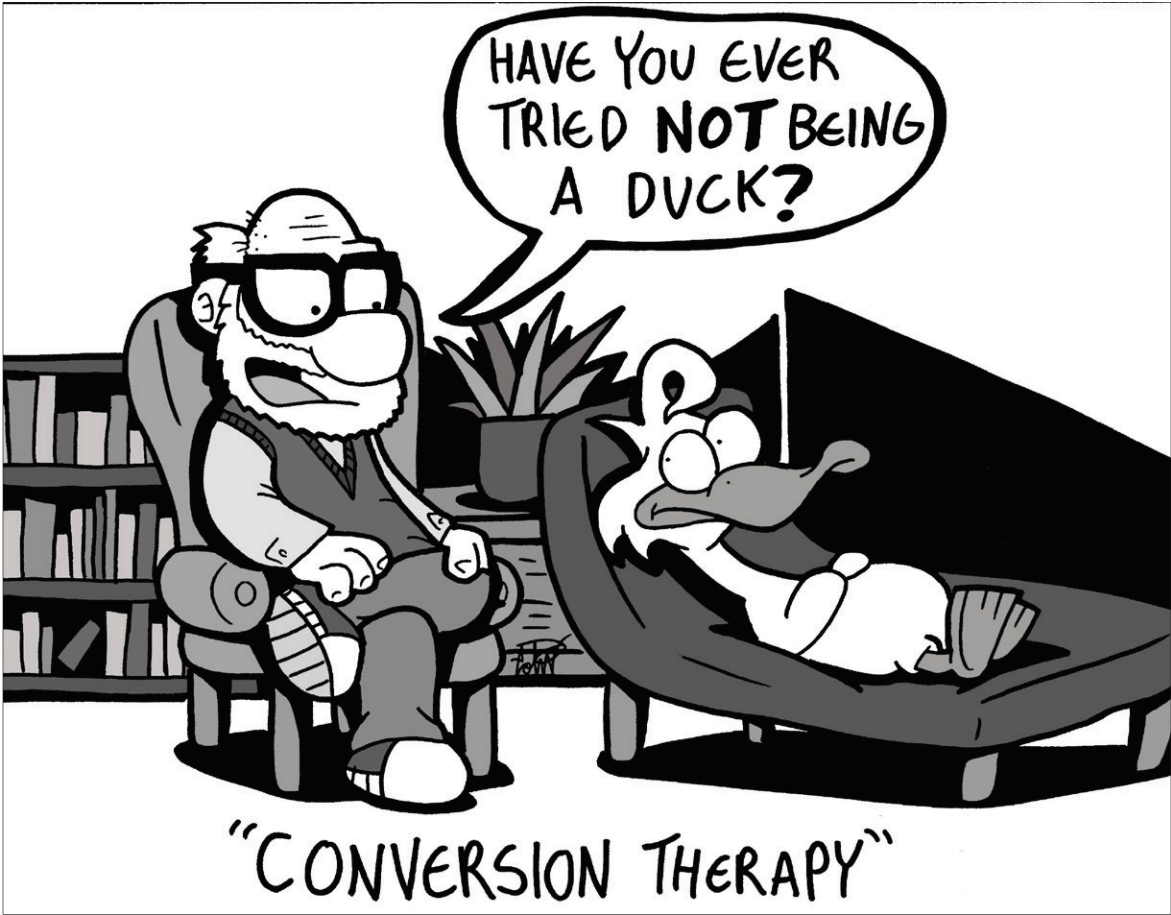
The crab rangoon, and egg

roll were brought out first alongside a dish of sweet-and-sour sauce. I could tell by the crisp nature of both of these fried morsels that I was in for an absolute treat.

As the crunchy fried batter of the crab rangoon burst open, and the cream cheese filling greeted my tastebuds, I knew immediately that I was going to have to make another order. The eggroll, when paired with the sweet-and-sour sauce, was equally on par.

The Red Curry, composed of chicken, curry paste, and other assorted vegetables, sat nicely next to a nice helping of fried rice. The meal was filling and went down easily in conjunction with the heat the curry spice provided. All in all, it was not too spicy, but just spicy enough for my taste buds.

After I had my fill, and was through paying, I sat back and took in more of the wonderful atmosphere: a wonderful way to have finished my dining experience.



COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Conversion therapy's demise finally on the Missouri horizon

It seems Missouri legislators are working to make a change that will empower many; the Missouri House has proposed to make conversion therapy illegal. Conversion therapy is a form of pseudoscientific therapy to try to reverse an individual's sexual orientation, and it is about time this change has happened. It's time to free members of the LGBT community of depression, guilt and even shame of who they are.

Missouri is among the four states who have made the decision to change the legality of the therapy and for good cause. Social media movement #bornperfect has prompted major attention to the controversial therapy, allowing people to live in their truth and be unashamed of who they are.

The results of conversion therapy are far from effective and, frankly, unsuccessful. The reasons

behind the therapy are now nonexistent and is time to be buried along with prejudice and discrimination of LGBT members.

Missourians are finally trying to provide a liberation for our family, friends and peers, who are perfect the way they are. Allowing conversion therapy will only further the belief that sexual orientation is something that is changeable, wrong and shameful.

With this bill, we are standing with members of the LGBT community, and showing them, we see their perfection and we know and respect who they are. While we strive for success with the proposed bill, not all areas of removal of conversion therapy can be remedied. Unlicensed therapy and religious groups can slide through the cracks, as the bill will not protect individuals from these kinds of therapy.

In ways, this type of therapy is old-aged and outdated. Our society may not be fully remedied of prejudice and discrimination, but we have made immense progress in accepting people for who they are. It is time that our legislation catch up to our social norms and expectation of our country's citizens.

While only nine states have completely passed bills to make conversion therapy illegal, Missouri's step in the right direction helps prompt other states to achieve a level of integrity, as well move forward with the approval.

#bornperfect is just the beginning of ending conversion therapy. We must all, not just as individual states, but as a country need to end this therapy that can cause so much pain. Missourians, and all Americans alike, need to stand in solitude with our peers and strive for an end to this oppressive therapy.

OPEN LETTER

Stop blaming the drunk person in drunk rape and start blaming the rapist.

Let me start with a statistic taken from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center: annually rape costs the USA more than any other crime, costing \$127 billion every single year.

The crime that follows second this horrific figure is sexual assault costing \$93 billion. We need to educate ourselves and our peers on what consent really is. We need to educate others on how not to feel entitled to someone else's body. We need to educate others on how not to be rapists. And most importantly, we still need to educate ourselves on how to stop blaming the victim. Although questioning a situation difficult to understand is a natural response, the 'victim' is going through enough already without logging onto Facebook and seeing you doubt their story without fully knowing it.

More than 90 percent of college campus sexual assaults are not reported. NINETY PERCENT. Take that fact and look around you right now, whether you're in the union, class, the library. Think about how many people around you might have experienced sexual assault since coming to college and you have no idea because they are too ashamed to report it, petrified of the judgements that they'd face if we all found out. Sixty-three percent of all sexual assaults, on or off college campuses, go unreported and yet sexual assault is still the second highest criminal expense in the USA. Just imagine how much it would cost if they were all reported.

If we, as a society, stopped being so judgmental and thirsty for details, people wouldn't be so scared to report these situations. Behaving and reacting to victims in the way that society does, we are creating repeat rapists. They see no wrongs in their actions because they have faced no sanctions for them. They will continue raping people, your peers, until they catch the wrong person – the one who will walk into that police department and say out loud what they had done to them.

It's hard reporting something like this. It's mentally and physically exhausting. Professionals are going to tell you "it's not your fault sweetie" as they hand you an information sheet titled 'how you can prevent being sexually assaulted.' I have never met someone who intended on being raped or assaulted, so why do we put so much emphasis on protecting ourselves from sexual assault? Why must we take responsibility if someone else takes advantage of us or forces us into something we don't want to do? Why is it us that get the blame for someone else's bad decision? Wake up!

We are teaching the wrong people the wrong things. If you want to celebrate finals week (or drown your sorrows) then you do that. If you want to chat with someone at the bar then you do that. If you want to allow a seemingly nice person into your room out of goodwill, then you do that. Hey, you want to get black out drunk then you do that too, who cares? We're college kids, its ok to not know our limits yet.

The world is not going to say that if you do any of these things and you are assaulted that it is your fault, but it will heavily imply it.

The word 'victim' horrifies me because I don't see myself as a victim. I don't want to. I'm not just a girl who was raped. I'm a girl who studies hard, works full time, can cook a hell a good meal and can interior design so well she should be paid for it. I'm so much more than a victim of rape. I hate the word 'survivor' even more. Am I supposed to be celebrated because I didn't kill myself afterwards?

It's only been one year, I'm still figuring it out. Still taking abuse from people who don't know what happened, still sleeping with the lights on and seeing figures in the dark, still drinking a little too hard and a little too often. I haven't survived anything. Rape isn't something you get over once it's done.

I beg everyone who ever experiences this to go to your police department, get that rape kit done as soon as you possibly can. As much as you want to, do not shower, do not wash your face, don't change your clothes, don't even brush your teeth. I'm not going to beat around the bush here, it's just like being raped all over again, having a stranger so close to my naked private areas and taking photos of body areas I haven't even seen myself and so soon after. Sometimes I think that this was worse than the actual assault.

But I promise you, there is nothing more satisfying than seeing your rapist's face crumple as he turns to his attorney and cries when the judge reads his guilty verdict, knowing it's because you were brave enough to collect that evidence and describe in full detail what happened to you over and over.

To everyone who has been through this and did not hear a guilty verdict, I am so sorry. Please remember that this does not mean that the judge doesn't believe you, or the jury don't believe you, or your friends don't believe you; there was not enough evidence for a definitive decision and that is not your fault. There is love and there is support for you everywhere you turn, maybe you don't see it yet but that's ok because you will.

I want anyone who has ever been through this to understand that no matter what you did before the attack, you are never ever to blame. Nobody is entitled to your body and you are never at fault for a POS human thinking that they are.

I want to publicly – whilst remaining anonymous – thank everyone who supported me during this and kept me confidential. Thank you to the guys at HERO for the incredibly generous gift package, thank you to Merrill and Bob and all the other guys who helped bring my life peace again. I'd also like to thank my friends for keeping me sane without going insane themselves first, to my professors for being so understanding, and to you all for showing me such love and compassion without even knowing it.

I love you all, my Bearcat family.

-‘SOUTH COMPLEX RAPE’ “VICTIM”

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Northwest hosts hostile intruder presentation

CAMERON MONTEMAYOR
Missourian Reporter | @CameronNWMSU

As part of Northwest’s 2018 calendar of career pathing events, an inaugural active-shooter training presentation took place in the Student Union Ballroom March 13.

The hour-long presentation titled HIRT, hostile intruder response training, was led by Northwest emergency management coordinator Michael Ceperley, a former UPD lieutenant and Maryville Public Safety officer.

Ceperley was in charge of last year’s mass-coordinated active shooter simulation, an event that coordinated with numerous surrounding law enforcement agencies and Kansas City SWAT.

Now in charge of Northwest’s new safety and emergency management team, Ceperley led the presentation to inform students about proper awareness and responses to active-shooters.

“When Virginia Tech happened in 2007, we realized as an institution, we weren’t ready,” Ceperley said. “Our administration stepped up and came to the UPD; that’s what got the (active-shooter) program kick-started.”

Ceperley’s 22-year career in law enforcement and specializa-

tion in emergency response gave students and community members an expert viewpoint on a variety of shooter-related safety methods.

One particular response method was a concept adopted by Northwest in 2013, called R.H.F, or run hide fight.

“Passive resistance doesn’t work, that’s 100 percent fact, fighting back and resisting does, it saves lives,” Ceperley said. “A lot of times, these bad guys don’t want resistance.”

He emphasized if you cannot get out of the area quick enough, follow another method called secure, evaluate and act.

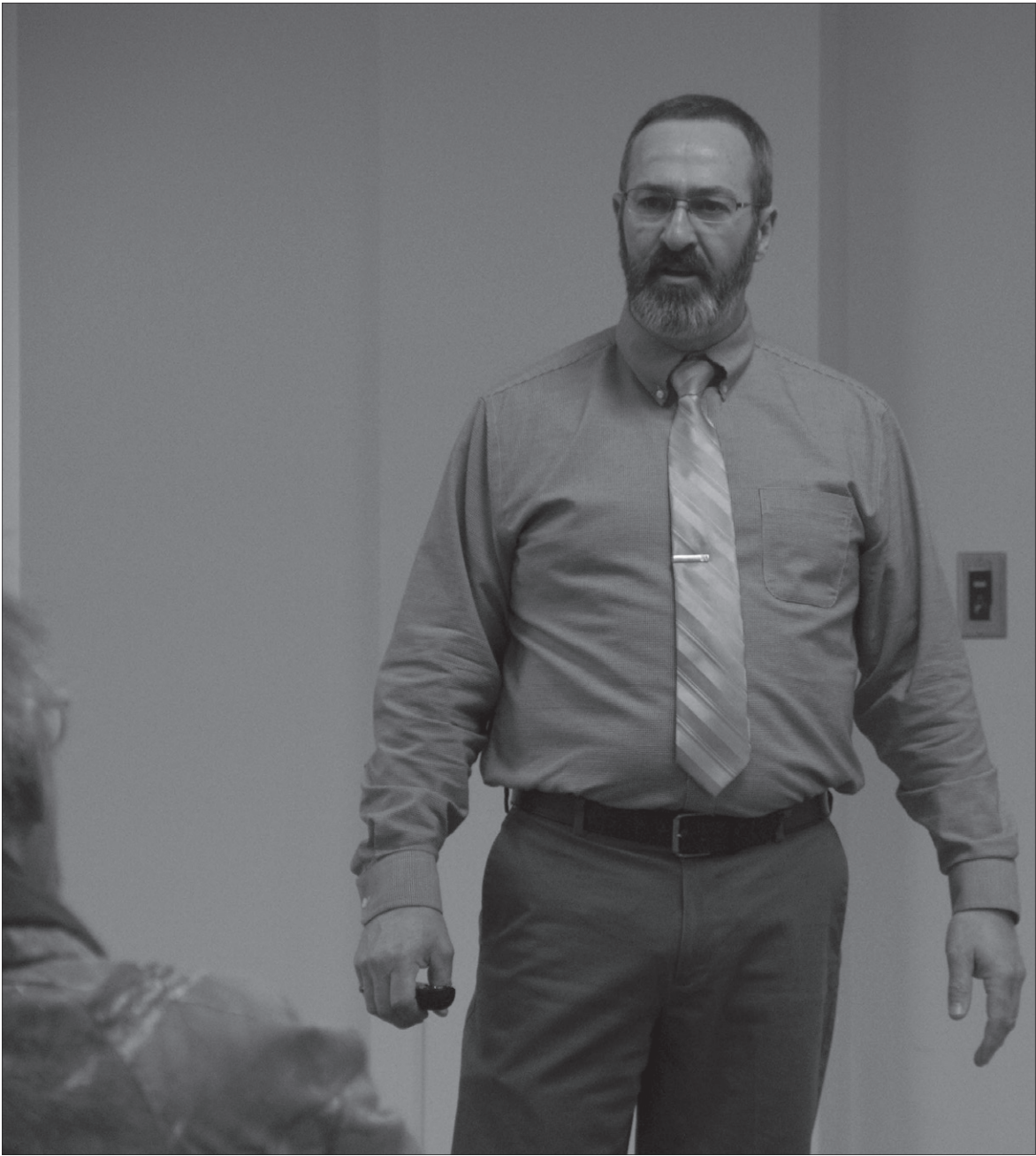
This emphasizes checking all entrances, barricading and, if necessary, attacking as a group.

Going beyond commonly discussed info, he looked to explain a largely unexplored area: the logic and mindset behind those trying to commit the crimes.

“There are things about it (active shooter events), I think it’s important we know, and that mindset is one of them,” Ceperley said.

Like the fact, most shooters have a tendency to leave cryptic or threatening signs, and usually, have an internal timer of 10 minutes to inflict the most damage.

One attendee, computer science professor Ajay Bandi, said as-



COLIN CAIN | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest’s emergency management coordinator Michael Ceperley presents a training program to help prepare the University for active shooter threats.

pects like the demo videos used to show procedures during a school shooting were good for people to be able to see.

“I think this is important because of recent things happening in Florida and other places,” Bandi said. “One should know about

that type of safety.”

Ceperley concluded by pointing out ways of recognizing pre-incident indicators of school shootings, like social media posts, texts and being aware of the histories of threatening behavior or violence.

“That’s the whole idea, knowing what to do before something happens before you’re encountered with it,” Ceperley said.

He said the value of such planning far outweighs the potential impact that a tragedy like that would have on a community.

ASSAULT CONTINUED FROM A1

“Honestly, my hope, I guess, is that as much as this may sound corny to folks that are between the age of 18 and 21 years old, I’d like them to think and remember that the person that they are talking with or dealing with is a human being,” Rice said. “And it is okay to wait and respect that person and not just jump to a physical act. You can show emotion and show infatuation with someone, without insisting or moving quickly to sex.”

Green urges everyone to be aware of all emergency precautions in place at the University, and to try and constantly employ safety practices.

“Download our emergency app; if you go to crisismanager.

com, there are tons of tips and safe practices to use to avoid being in a tough situation,” Green said. “In no way do we ever want to blame a victim or a survivor of one of these incidents. What we want to do is make sure that we are giving some safety precautions so folks can be in a safe situation.”

Rice said he and the department have made the victim know all of the support options offered to her.

“It is more than whether to file a charge or not with me,” Rice said. “It is always about how do we wrap a person who’s just been hurt with support to help them out. We have connected her with some resources, and I am real proud of our partnership with Children and Family Center of Northwest Missouri, as well as my victim advocate, which

we have a full-time victim advocate here in Nodaway County that can help folks. That help is more than whether or not a case is filed. We let her know the resources and continue to support her to this day.”

Green said the simplest advice is to say no and to not be afraid to report any cases of sexual assault when they happen.

“If you feel like someone is pressuring you to have sex, be willing to say no and be willing to report if you feel that you are being pressured into a situation,” Green said. “Say no, take a friend with you always, never travel alone at late night hours, have someone travel with you and really just report any strange or unwelcomed behavior. In no way do we ever want to blame a victim or a survivor of these incidents.”

BITCOIN CONTINUED FROM A1

“It was a great way to earn some very minimal disposable income, and by minimal I mean less than \$10 every 2 weeks,” Taylor said. “However, when Bitcoin skyrocketed in price last year, my \$10 every 2 weeks turned into about \$350. While it was very short lived, I sold off most of my Bitcoin for Amazon gift cards to buy my fiancée a Christmas gift.”

Taylor said he has never mined cryptocurrency in a campus building because while it is not illegal, it is “highly immoral.”

“I believe that it is immoral to use it (campus power) to mine due to the fact that it is a significant amount of power being used,” Taylor said. “Most mining equipment uses no less than one kilowatt per hour of power. While you pay for room and board on campus, there is an expectation that you use a ‘fair

share’ of your power, water, waste, etc. Mining on campus would exceed that ‘fair share,’ among other harms.”

Other harms, Taylor said, include unnecessary strain on campus systems, especially the electric system and unfairly draining campus resources.

However, it is possible that there is a student, or students, mining cryptocurrency who are unknown to the administration and residence hall directors.

When contacted in January, Director of Residential Life Rose Viau, Millikan hall director Jacob Wood, Tower Suites and Forest Village Apartments complex director Paul Bennett and Dieterich hall director Jessie Lundy all had no knowledge of any students mining on campus, claiming to have little to no knowledge of the subject of cryptocurrency.

“I have no idea what this even is or if there is an issue with this on our campus,” Viau said.

Blotters for the week of March 15

Maryville Public Safety Department

Feb. 27

There is an ongoing investigation for burglary at the 800 block of South Main Street.

Feb. 28

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 1200 block of South Main Street.

March 2

There is an ongoing investigation for a natural gas leak at the 600 block of East Fourth Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for failure to return rental property at the 2000 block of South Main Street.

March 6

A summons was issued to **Vernon White, 21**, from Kansas City, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated and equipment violation at the 700 block of North Buchanan Street.

A summons was issued to **Austin Puffpaff, 20**, for larceny at

the 1600 block of South Main Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for property damage at the 1600 block of South Main Street.

March 7

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 600 block of East Seventh Street.

A summons was issued to **Lara Brannan-Cole, 17**, for having no valid driver’s license and equipment violation at the 1800 block of South Main Street.

March 8

A summons was issued to **Ryan Price, 27**, for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to register to register a motor vehicle at the 100 block of West Seventh Street.

March 9

A summons was issued to **Andrew Bain, 22**, for leaving the scene of an accident at the 1200 block of North Main Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 400 block

of North Buchanan Street.

March 10

A summons was issued to **Jaclyn Harding, 20**, from Liberty, Missouri, for possession of a fake I.D. at the 400 block of North Buchanan Street.

A summons was issued to **Tyler Ray, 24**, from Kansas City, Missouri, for disorderly conduct at the 200 block of East Third Street.

A summons was issued to **Gracie Bross, 17**, from Palmyra, Missouri, for minor in possession and being under 19 in a bar at the 400 block of North Buchanan Street.

March 11

A summons was issued to **Dereck Cochran, 19**, from Saint Joseph, Missouri, for disorderly conduct and minor in possession at the 400 block of North Fillmore Street.

A summons was issued to **Derek Hussey, 20**, from Chillicothe, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated and minor in possession at the 1100 block of South Main Street.

The Nodaway County Local Emergency Planning Committee

hereby notifies the public that emergency response plan (s), material safety data sheets and inventory forms have been submitted pursuant to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. These materials along with any follow up emergency notices may be reviewed at 222 East Third Street Maryville, MO 64468 upon appointment.

Contact 660-562-3209 to schedule an appointment.

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DAN KIZER
OWNERSHIP PARTNER

A black and white illustration showing a tow truck with its boom extended, lifting a dark-colored sedan from the ground. The tow truck is positioned to the right of the car, and the car is being hoisted by a crane-like mechanism. The scene is set against a plain background.


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THE PALMS



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
Local performer Jordan Schoch takes the stage early Saturday afternoon at The Palms, helping ring in the final day of festivities at the Never Forget Fest, in memory of those lost along the way.

Local bar celebrates life through Never Forget Fest

MICHAEL CRIPE
A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

Looking past the differences we have in times of misfortune can be a daunting task, but thanks to the energy known as Never Forget Fest, Maryville will never be the same.

What spawned this past weekend’s night of celebration was not nearly as positive because, unfortunately, tragedy almost always strikes at the most surprising times.

Early in the morning of Jan. 7, a drunk driver crashed into local bar, The Palms, hitting sophomore elementary education major Morgan McCoy and causing serious damage to the entrance of the establishment. McCoy was rushed to the hospital where she was pronounced dead, leaving Maryville in a confused and damaged state.

Not many will deny the hole left in the small Northwest town after McCoy’s sudden passing. Winter break had come to a close and school spirits were just starting to rise in anticipation of the upcoming semester. In an effort to trudge forward, the Bearcats moved on, hoping to remember their fallen family member in the most positive ways they could.

McCoy’s bright life cut short is celebrated day after day with events, such as a bell ringing ceremony taking place as recently as this week. However, until this past weekend, one piece of the puzzle

was left strangely out of place.

The Palms—the bar that had become a location of bitter memories, tainted by the devastating loss of a fellow community member. Moments like these show as dark spots in Maryville history, but Erik Schreiber, owner of The Palms, refused to let McCoy leave without one last weekend of life.

Schreiber came up with an idea to take The Palms’ early March reopening and turn into a festival of positivity, hope and remembrance, and it was all for McCoy.

He called it Never Forget Fest. “The primary purpose was to celebrate life, and to try to create a positive memory from this event that led us here,” Schreiber said.

Each moment of the two-day event was meant to feel completely separate from the standard bar night, while still maintaining a local feel. After months of prep work, 14 entertainment acts, from DJs to solo artists, came to show their support for the college town. The two nights also doubled as the launch for the Blue Cup Initiative— an effort put forth in order to greatly diminish drunk driving in town.

Schreiber says he recognizes the significance of The Palms in a town as sewn together as Maryville. He says Maryville and The Palms for many, are a ‘home away from home’ just because of the atmosphere that offers open arms and promotes success.



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
Reid Osborn, creator of The Blue Cup Initiative, sells merchandise at The Palms’ reopening to promote his cause, with proceeds going to Morgan McCoy’s GoFundMe account.

He hopes the efforts of The Palms staff to create a time of healing were enough for Bearcats to forget about the unfortunate circumstances looming over campus this semester.

“The set of circumstances that led us here are tragic,” Schreiber said. “There’s no getting around that. The outpouring of love from Morgan’s friends has been great, and I’m happy that I can help heal this scar, even if it’s just a little.”

Deven Roszell, a Bearcat and bouncer at The Palms, says The Palms has been doing everything it can to help support McCoy’s loved ones. Schreiber even started a GoFundMe page earlier in the year, but Never Forget Fest was the all-in-one way to breathe life back into the community.

The accident affected everyone in town, but for some at the bar the night of the accident, the effects can be long lasting. In an age where security can be more important than ever, bouncers remain one of the few measures of protection against danger at local bars.

“The hardest thing to deal with was seeing and hearing all the stories of that night, as I was there

and witnessed everything firsthand – most of them were way off what actually happened,” Roszell said. “I also struggle with PTSD from the incident. Just the memory of the situation is hard to deal with, and it is hard to live with every day. [McCoy] was an awesome soul.”

Despite the pain, Roszell worked open to close during Never Forget Fest. He says the accident presents Maryville with a mountain to climb over, but Bearcats are always learning and growing together. Roszell offers his condolences to McCoy’s family and friends and says The Palms will always have their back.

Kayla Geyer, freshman animal science major, used to often take nights out at The Palms, but greatly reduced the amount of time she spent at the bar. She was not totally done with going out though, especially when she heard about the Never Forget Fest.

Geyer knows how important The Palms is to the many Bearcats who enjoy time out on the weekend and added that the positivity the bar put out was necessary.

“No one wants to see that place close for good,” Geyer said. “It’s

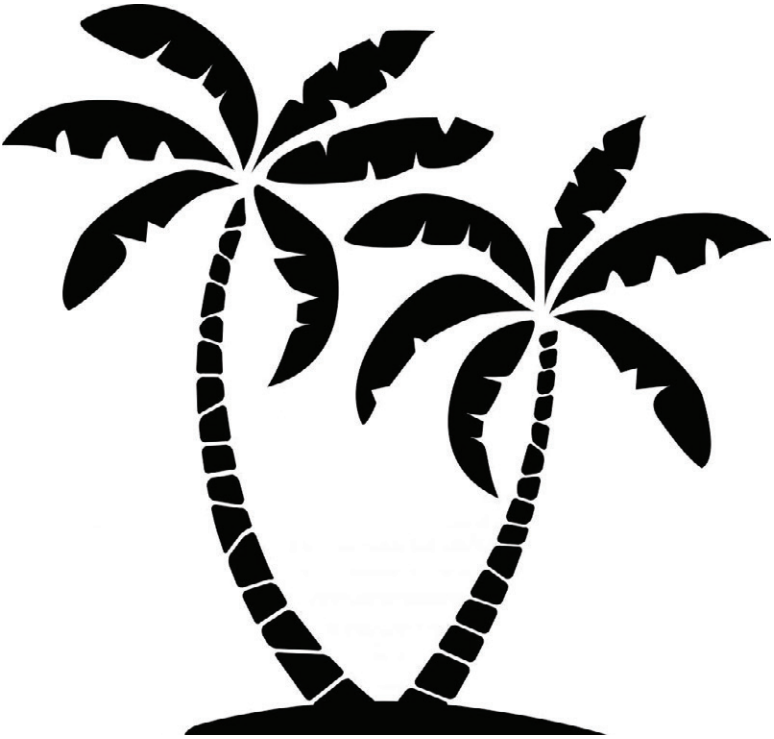
a beloved bar; my parents went to The Palms when they were my age. I think [the positivity] opened people’s eyes in ways that no one saw coming, but we are a college community. Everyone shows his or her support to local places here in Maryville. The Palms is a home to many of us Bearcats.”

Never Forget Fest went off without a hitch. So much so that Schreiber says this past weekend will not be the last Maryville sees of the local event.

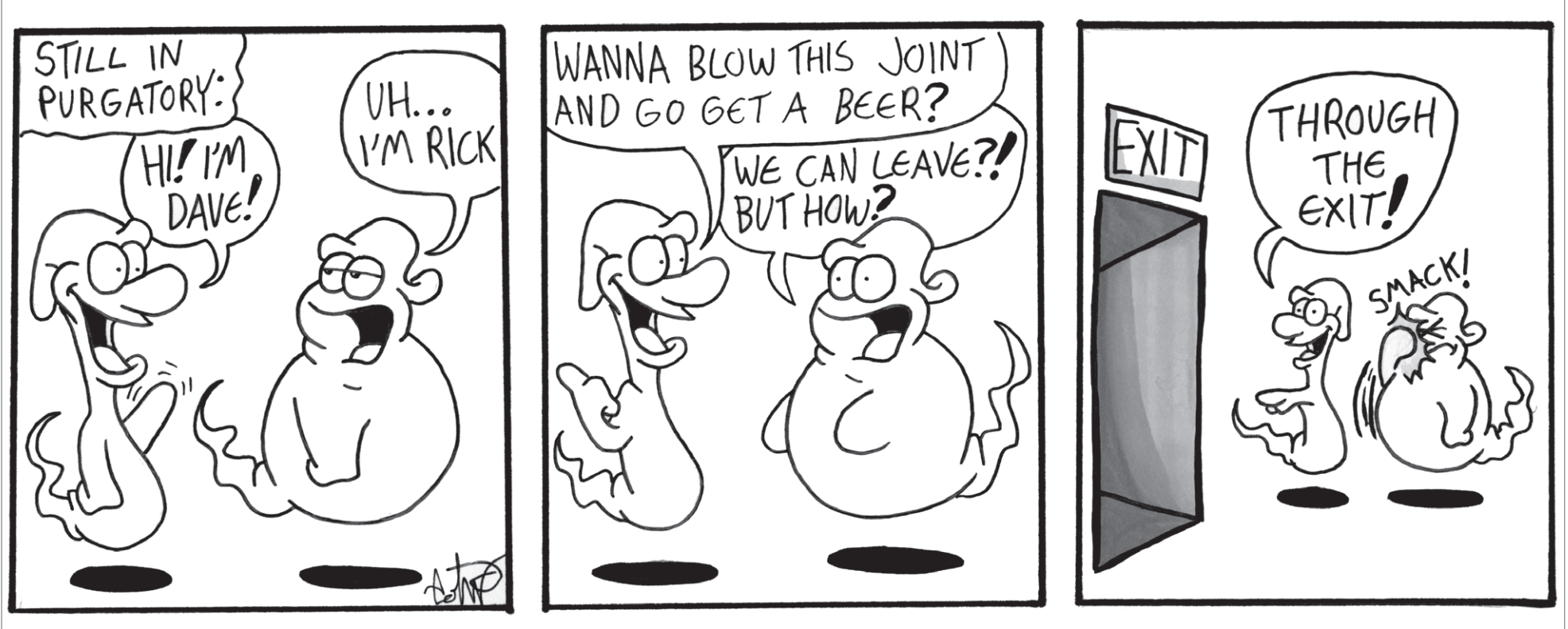
Schreiber went on to explain how the fest’s success was a key sign that it should not be limited to one weekend.

“We will absolutely be doing this again next year,” Schreiber said. “Hopefully, this becomes a long-standing tradition for future Bearcats. The positivity that came from this was out of this world.”

Bearcats will not soon forget Never Forget Fest, just as McCoy’s life will live on in the community. Town woes are not enough to keep Bearcats down, and the Never Forget Fest’s impact will send ripples for years to come.



Paranormal Inactivity



COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

Spaying, neutering pets is a necessity



JAMES CHRISTENSEN
Opinion Columnist
@jameschris1701

So I recently spoke with my younger sister, and she told me that she plans to not get her puppy spayed. She wants to leave her reproductive systems fully intact. When I heard this, I was rather upset. While I have always been told that spaying and neutering your pets were important, I never knew why.

So I went to my local shelter, and got some more information; what I was told was shocking. If you do not spay or neuter your pets, you increase their risk for cancer. That is right, by making one decision, you increase the possibility of cancer by a tenfold.

My sister is still firm in her decision to not spay our mini Australian shepherd. This one act is so important, and too many people ignore it. This one procedure reduces the overall animal population, and helps to keep the number of unwanted puppies and kittens under control.

These unwanted litters fill animal shelters to the brim, and add extra costs on nonprofits that cannot afford to support so many animals. This leads to a majority of unwanted litters being abandoned or killed because no one wants them. This breaks my heart, and makes it even more important to me to make sure my pets are spayed or neutered to guarantee that all animals have a chance to find a family and to be loved by

someone.

It is far too often that animals, especially cats and dogs, spend most of their lives in animal shelters. Every pet deserves to be loved, and by taking the time to keep the population under control, we can provide this love.

I see connection between this and hunting, because with hunting we are continuing to control the population of these creatures. So why are some people against spaying or neutering their pets? Most families consider their pets as family, and don't you want to do what is best for your family? I get it if you want puppies or kittens, they are adorable little balls of fur that want nothing but love. At the same time, do you actually have the resources to take care of these wonderful creatures?

The decision to not spay or neuter your pets is your choice, and while it is not mandatory, it is a civil service to your community. The effects of one animal going into heat can send a neighborhood into chaos. The hormones in the air still affect animals that have been spayed and neutered.

Our puppy went through her first heat a few weeks ago, and our house barely survived. The male dogs were going nuts and running all over the place, the cats were angry and clawing up all of the furniture and the puppy in heat was rubbing up against everything in the house.

So while I respect your choice, it is not a wise one, and it has effects on others in your community. As Bob Barker said at the end of every episode of the Price is Right, spay and neuter your pets.

“In Memory” by James Christensen

Life is an endless circle,
We live, we breathe, we die.
While life may be short
The connections we make are timeless,
And transcend all boundaries, borders, and walls.
When someone dies they are not gone,
We carry them everyday in our hearts.
They are always on our mind,
And never forgotten.
But cherished for the love,
The hugs, the kind words of wisdom.
Just being there made the difference
And they will never leave our side.
In loving memory of my Papa. I will miss you.

SUPER SMASH BROS.™

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There have been four entries in the “Super Smash Brothers” series since 1999. Since then, the celebratory Nintendo games’ lifetime sales have reached a collective total of over 40 million units.

Mario, Link, inklings to appear in Super Smash Brothers for Switch

MICHAEL CRIPE
A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

Last Thursday, Nintendo pummeled social media users with the announcement of the next entry in the “Super Smash Brothers” franchise.

The party brawler will release exclusively for Nintendo Switch.

Nintendo’s reveal of the game, famous for offering all-star video game rosters, came during a surprise Nintendo Direct: a live event where the gaming titan explains a host of headlines in great detail for fan-viewing pleasure.

Through and through, the 30-minute presentation remained pretty standard, thanks to the showcasing of a few PlayStation and Xbox games that will be making their way over to Nintendo Switch later this year. Some of the games include “Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy,” “South Park: The Fractured, but Whole” and 2017’s indie sleeper hit “Little Nightmares.”

Of course, Nintendo made sure to allow an extended look into Mario Tennis Aces and even gave the game a release date of June 22.

The real bombshell came at the end of the direct as Nintendo big-

wig Yoshiaki Koizumi began to close the live stream, but not before announcing he had ‘one more thing’ to show.

Regardless of two and a half years of doubting, theorizing and, most importantly, ‘hype,’ the final revelation was that “Smash Bros.” is back, and it is coming in 2018.

The world shook as the internet was flooded with reaction compilations of fans all over the globe losing their minds, as Mario and Link looked ominously among the approaching competition.

Even in Maryville, a company almost entirely associated with Japan managed to cause vibrations.

Northwest alumni and avid “Smash” player, Tyler Schmitz, says he lost his mind when he finally figured out “Smash Bros.” was coming to Nintendo Switch this year. Schmitz has been playing the game since he was young, but never stopped following the series. For him, the game is a celebration of all things video games, a hobby he has held close for decades.

“Smash’ is my all-time favorite game,” Schmitz said. “I grew up playing ‘Smash’ with all my friends and have even made new friends through our love of the

game.”

One of the biggest draws of the 20-year-old franchise is its competitive nature. The second iteration of the game, “Super Smash Bros. Melee,” still garners thousands of audience members every year at tournaments, like the Evolution Championship Series (EVO).

Even in a smaller community like Maryville, the competitive scene still makes waves. Schmitz says he would love to compete one day, but for now, his excitement comes simply from the game’s roster reveals that slowly trickle out before each game releases.

“There is no one best part about a new ‘Smash’ game, but the character reveals do keep the hype going,” Schmitz said. “It’s always exciting to see what kind of changes and new characters there will be in every new entry.”

Whether playing competitively or casually, “Super Smash Brothers” is back, and fans are readier than ever to dive back in.

This next entry may not include left field characters like “Dragon Ball’s” Goku or “Metroid’s” Ridley, but the ever-expanding list of fighters will be sure to impress even the newest of fans.



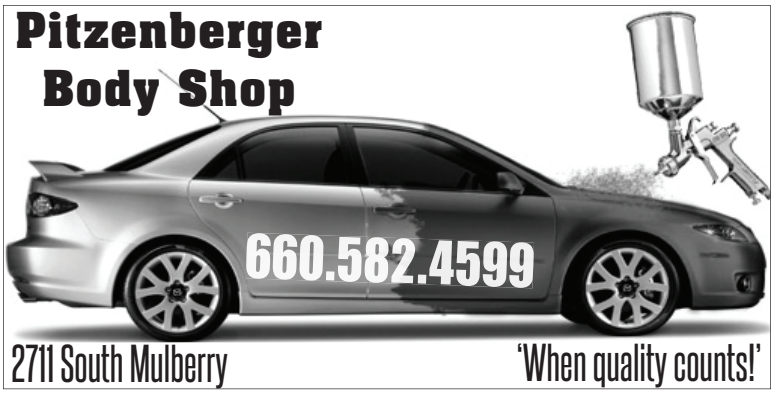
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MAMA RWANDA

Northwest welcomes established director

MEKA WRIGHT

A&E Reporter | @itstheredhair_

As the Northwest campus celebrates the month dedicated to the phenomenal powerhouses that are women, with the help of director Laura Hinson, we stepped into the lives of two inspiring strong-willed women with the film “Mama Rwanda” March 8, in the Charles Johnson Theatre.

The lives of two Rwandan women, Christine and Dorcella, were damaged forever in 1994, as the Rwanda genocide took the lives of their neighbors, their family members and their husbands, wiping out more than 800,000 lives in 100 days. Left poor and alone in patriarchal society, where their rights as women were limited, to say the least, and with their children’s hungry stomachs to feed, the two women embarked on separate, yet similar, journeys of survival. Using their limited resources, they created an entrepreneurship to build businesses that would soon sprout into fortunious ventures.

Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences Brian Hesse, Ph.D., explained the societal effects of a vast majority of men either killed or imprisoned after the genocide, and what that meant for women in Rwanda.

“The society is incredibly patrilineal, meaning men pretty much ran the show, any asset were inherited by the male lineage,” Hesse said. “So what happens to a society when the male side of the equation is eliminated, by default, it falls to the women. All the legal and social norms had to catch up to their realities.”

Though parliament has had a



Laura Water Hinson has done more than just work with “Mama Rwanda,” as she has also created an award-winning documentary entitled “As We Forgive,” in addition to “Many Beautiful Things.”

MORGAN JONES | NW MISSOURIAN

complete makeover since the genocide, with a majority of women in high powered position in Rwanda, the social norms are slow to catch up with the changes in government.

Christine, who is viewed as a “modern woman” in Rwanda as she diverts from the traditional role of a Rwandan woman, is the epitome of the newly found power of Rwandan women. Christine’s choice to have a boyfriend, years after her husband’s death was the topic of gossip within her community, though her attitude and personal strife has in-

spired many, even Northwest sophomore/junior Samantha Mageto.

“She fell in love with a younger person, despite all the challenges she went through losing her husband, being a woman and taking initiative, and empowering others,” Mageto said.

The change in social norms for women in Rwanda was in fact a result of women challenging the idea that they needed men to survive and provide.

“As they become self-reliant... it almost gives them the ability

not to adhere to the social norms,” Hesse said. “You get a good husband that you have no choice in marrying because the man is there to support yourself. Becoming economically independent, you don’t have to find a man, unless you want to.”

Stricken with poverty and wondering when the next time her children would eat prompted Dorcella to build a community-based business, encouraging her neighbors to work together to form a farming business that would benefit the

community as a whole. Her challenges were no fault of hers, but her drive to provide a better life for her family and the ones around her forced an ambition that every Rwandan woman has adopted since the genocide.

“Women have to do these things out of necessity, even in areas where there hasn’t been a genocide,” Hesse said. “Since men have shut them out from typical areas of being able to better themselves and their families’ realities, they create those realities. Post genocide and the trauma... that adds another layer.”

While at times, we may feel that women across the world are different from us in America, believing their realities of oppression and discrimination are something foreign, it is rather a difference in degree, Hesse said.

“It’s a matter of degree rather than total difference,” Hesse said. “Look at how women are paid on average versus men. We have laws that say you can’t discriminate based on sex, but yet there are pay gaps. We get too confident in the progress women’s rights have made here... there is some self reflection that needs to happen before we become too critical of Rwanda.”

Sophomore Infiniti Anderson has built an admiration for the women of Rwanda, striving to adopt their aspirations of resilience and faith.

“I admire their resilience,” Anderson said. “Even though life was difficult, they never gave up. It showed that if you have enough resilience, you can achieve your goals. Those women went through more than most us will ever go through in life, and they never gave up trying to make a better life.”

THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants you to watch your razors

As college students, it is known that we have little regard for our lives while crossing the street. We all have looked cars in the headlights as we cross, giving drivers little to no time to slow, repeating the mantra in our heads, “Hit me, hit me, please, this tuition needs to be paid.” as we walk into the line of death, without fear. While I am one to brazenly step into the street in light of oncoming cars, I refuse to be mowed down on the sidewalk by a bicycle or a skateboard or a Razor scooter made for 8-year-olds.

We get it bicycle riders, you have a bike that is relatively faster than my little 5’1” legs, but I will not stand for you zipping

past me, weaving in and out of the small gaps of people on the sidewalks. As I walk alone, the sound of the thin tires scuffing pass from behind me, sending my heart into panic as I realize I was seconds away from inching to the left, directly into your reckless path. Sometimes, I wonder what would happen if I kick the side of the wheel ever so lightly as you past, nearly taking my shoulder off. Maybe you’ll learn then.

The skateboards aren’t so bad, except the thrumming sound of the wheel flying over the cracks in the sidewalks. I wonder if everyone else on the sidewalk can hear you coming, too. I look back often because I honestly don’t trust

the skateboarders’ judgment to not run me over. I secretly love the silent frustration when the sidewalk is too congested and the skateboarder is forced to walk like the rest of us. I find it even funnier when the legs of the rider aren’t strong enough to make it up a hill, mainly because I know I’d never make it either.

The razor scooters are the most surprising of all. The sight of fully grown adults, sifting through the sidewalks, backs hunched over the four-foot toy, is truly a knee slapper. By the end of the year, I’m sure that one leg pushing off the sidewalk is twice as big as the other. And their ankles must have grown immune to

the many times that little scooter has swung around and crushed them. Their calf muscles are uneven and lopsided; it is worth the body aches and broken ankles to get to class 2.5 seconds sooner than everyone else.

Here’s the moral of the story: bicycles are dangerous, skateboards are annoying, scooters are for children and it’s fine to step into traffic and brave the two-ton vehicle going 20 miles per hour; at least you have a chance of getting paid for your suffering.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Kool Kats prepares for reopening by end of March

SARAH VON SEGGERN

A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

With spring just around the corner, there are many new events coming up and the reopening of Kool Kats is one of them.

Kool Kats is a local, family-owned dessert shop that has been in Maryville for 25 years. It has been under renovations since October, and will be reopening March 26 in the building at the same location, 811 S. Main St.

Along with a new look, they will also be introducing new and improved menu items, such as soda-iced teas and eventually coffee. With the edition of certain items, they have decided to stay open year-round instead of closing during winter.

Owners of Kool Kats Leslie Ackman and her husband Dave Ackman are excited for their grand reopening.

“We will be opening the building where our trailer is currently located,” Leslie Ackman said. “We have been remodeling. Along with booths for people to sit in, we will have a couch and chairs. We want to provide a homey place for people to gather, talk and enjoy a treat. We are also adding more to our outside patio area, and will be able to have birthday parties, showers, club

gatherings and more.”

While the owners would like to do more festivals and events this year, they have other goals as well.

“Mainly, we just want to keep on improving and be Maryville’s go-to place for delicious shaved ice, ice cream, shakes, smoothies and coffee at a reasonable price,” Leslie Ackman said. “We enjoy getting to know our customers.”

With the support of long-time customers, the Ackmans’ hope to also gain more with their updated menu and shop.

“We hope to continue getting college students and high school students,” Leslie Ackman said. “Also, with all our new items, we hope parents that bring their kids in, that may not feel like something sweet, will be able to enjoy an iced tea or coffee.”

Just as much as the Ackmans’ love their customers, the customers also can’t get enough of Kool Kats. Sophomore elementary education major and customer Riley Dunaway gives Kool Kats a 10 out of 10 rating.

Her first experience with Kool Kats was in June, where she fell in love with her first taste of their shaved ice and the uniqueness of the place.

“I think it is different from other restaurants because it doesn’t really provide food, and it’s only open



COLIN CAIN | NW MISSOURIAN

Fans of locally owned Kool Kats are in luck, as a reopening is scheduled for later this month, featuring an indoor location and new menu items.

during the summertime,” Dunaway said. “Plus, it’s the only place in town that offers coconut-flavored shaved ice.”

Dunaway personally can’t wait for Kool Kats to open back up to see how it has changed, and to taste the millions of different flavors of shaved ice.

“If you haven’t tried Kool Kats you need to,” Dunaway said. “It’s life-changing. There are tons of flavors for people to choose, so if you don’t particularly like one, you have a lot of options.”

Kool Kats never fails to remind Dunaway of the sweet taste of summer and her feelings of enjoyment.

“I think Kool Kats gives the community a really unique and enjoyable experience that is unlike anything else in Maryville,” Dunaway said.

To stay up-to-date on Kool Kats, follow them at Kool Kats Maryville on Facebook or Twitter @koolkatsville.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Having performed well in the fall, senior golfer Gia Zupancic hopes to build toward a strong spring to top off her final season with the Bearcats. The team opens its season at the St. Joseph Country Club March 19.

Golf focused ahead of spring opener

TUCKER FRANKLIN
Chief Reporter | @THEREAL_tuckerf

As the cold Maryville winter begins to subside and warmer temperatures take control, the Northwest women’s golf team readies for the spring season.



Senior Maddie Propst said the biggest change in between seasons is the amount of preparation time before the start of the season.

“In the fall, we have all summer to fine tune our games and get them ready for the season,” Propst said. “In the spring, the weather usually doesn’t cooperate to get out and practice until the week of tournament play.”

NEXT GAME
Missouri Western MIAA Spring Tournament March 19-20

Earlier this season, Propst averaged 83 strokes per round through 10 rounds. The Bearcats are set to hit the links at the St. Joseph Country Club for the Missouri Western MIAA Spring Tournament March 19-20. With the first tournament of the season rapidly approaching, Propst said the team is looking to enjoy each tournament.

“It’s the first one of the season, and we have not been able to get out much with the weather,” Propst said. “Main goal of this

tourney is to find our swings again and get that confidence back with ourselves when competing.”

While it takes a while to get into the groove of the season again, senior Gia Zupancic said having a good fall can bring positive momentum into spring.

“The fall helps us get a good start both individually and team-wise because everyone has had all summer to prepare, and everyone is playing very well for the most part,” Zupancic said. “If you play well in the fall, it gives you a boost in the spring. I played pretty well in the fall, so not only do I want to work harder every day to keep that going, but I feel more mentally ready going into this season.”

Northwest’s highest finish during the fall was fifth place during

the Concordia Women’s Fall Invite in St. Paul, Minnesota. Zupancic explained the team’s outlook for the remaining of the year.

“We need to stay focused each tournament, and do the best we can with the conditions we are going to have to deal with,” Zupancic said. “Spring golf is a lot different than fall because you never know what kind of weather you’re going to get; one day, it could be sunny and 75, and the next, it could be 50 and pouring rain. For me, it’s all about not letting that get in my head and thinking about it too much; just go out and play and have fun.”

Zupancic tied for fifth at the MIAA Fall Preview, hosted at Mozingo Lake Golf Course, with a one over par two round total of

145. The Bearcats finished ninth in the same tournament. Looking forward, Zupanic said the MIAA is the cream of the crop

“Our conference is very tough and stacked top to bottom,” Zupancic said. “We really just have to see how things go when we get to each tournament.”

With the final season of Propst’s career getting underway, Propst explained her goal is just to enjoy the rest of her time as a Bearcat.

“My main goal from the beginning of the year is to enjoy the time I have left with my team and doing what I love,” Propst said. “Of course, I want to play good golf, but as long as I give it all I have and have fun, I’ll be happy.”

GUTIERREZ CONTINUED FROM A12

Before he knew it, he was sitting at second base in tears.

“I felt like that was her way of watching my game,” Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez never holds back the feelings that he has for his aunt, no matter what people think.

“Him and I kinda live at an age where, being a college athlete, you have to put on this mask or carry yourself like you’re this big strong tough athletic guy,” Eppenbach said. “That’s why Mondo (Gutierrez) has a different personality. You could see the love that he has for his aunt and he wasn’t afraid to show it, he wasn’t afraid to say, “this was my aunt, this was my blood and I cared for her.”

Gutierrez said his memories of his aunt still push him toward his goals every day. One afternoon, he decided to drive from Orange County to Los Angeles to see her. She took him to In-N-Out Burger, and told him about her regrets of not finishing school. She made him promise that he would get his degree and keep playing the game he loved.

“She made a big impact on me,” Gutierrez said. “Every day I go on that field and every day I’m inside the classroom to take a test or something, she’s always there right next to me.”

After a year of pain and suffering, Gutierrez didn’t stop searching for that next step as he took his talents away from California and landed in Maryville. Even with a new start, he knew that his aunt was always by his side.

“Being from California and coming all the way to Missouri

and not really having anyone around to lean on for family besides my teammates. It just feels good knowing that someone is up there watching me,” Gutierrez said.

Although Montenegro may have passed on, her traits of positivity and happiness will forever be engraved into Gutierrez’ attitude towards life and what it means.

“He just kind of always looked at the bright side of it,” Eppenbach said. “He just always had the best attitude towards the whole situation, and I was impressed. I have gone through periods of time where family members are ill and have lost friends in the past, and the attitude he showed was inspiring.”

Gutierrez knew his talents were given to him by the grace of God, and every time his aunt saw him, she would remind him of it. Now that she is gone, he takes to the field to honor her at a level he didn’t even think he could reach.

As each game passes, there is no breezing through the competition for Gutierrez because he knows his aunt wouldn’t have wanted it that way. To show that level of commitment to giving his best on the field every day, he puts those letters in the dirt to allow his aunt to give him the courage to honor her.

“A lot of people don’t know the story about my aunt,” Gutierrez said. “I’m not there to write her name on the dirt for a show; it’s more for me knowing that she’s always there right by my side. If there is one thing I would want people to know, (it is that) she always told me to be happy, and just smile; she always brought a lot of laughter to the place she was at, at the time.”



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN
Senior Brett Dougherty appeared in 101 games throughout his career with Northwest men’s basketball . He compiled 949 points, 176 assists, 54 blocks and 487 total rebounds.

SENIORS CONTINUED FROM A14

A loss to Missouri Southern in Joplin broke the streak for the second consecutive season. One more loss to the Lions, plus a defeat to Nebraska Kearney, compiled the Bearcats’ three regular season losses.

“Our coaching staff, they get us ready and prepared for every game of the season,” Kurth said. “It doesn’t matter if its preseason scrimmages or regular season.”

Injury hit the team in the process, creating an obstacle for Northwest to overcome. Support

from junior Joey Witthus, sophomore Ryan Welty and freshman Ryan Hawkins helped the Bearcats through the obstacle.

The most notable injury was Pitts. He suffered from turf toe for much of the latter half of the season.

The MIAA Player-of-the-Year seemed to be back to normal in the first two games of the MIAA championship, racking up over 20 points in both games.

He played in the first round of the conference championship game, before sitting out the second half. Northwest still won.

“We’ve played with Justin

earlier this season,” Kurth said. “We’ve already seen what we can do offensively with it. When he’s out, we like to go into the post.”

Pitts appeared in street clothes during warm-ups in the first round of the Central Region Tournament.

His absence was felt in the opening game of the playoffs as Minnesota State’s zone attack and poor shooting led the Bearcats to a 60-50 loss, ending the four seniors’ collegiate careers.

“They’ve put a lot into this,” McCollum said. “It’s disappointing they had to go out like this.”



NEXT GAME (MHS)

Central Missouri High School
Indoor Relays
March 19 @ 1:00 p.m.

Sophomore runner Chase Sims gets in a workout at practice as Maryville track and field sets out to build off its historic 2017 season.

TAYLOR LEGRONE | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville sets out for 2018 quest

TUCKER QUINN
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

While the Spoofhounds are only days into their spring track schedule, there is no shortage of expectations for these young athletes. Following last year’s performance, the Maryville boys had taken multiple runners to state and returned home with state medals, along with breaking a few state records. As a team, the Spoofhounds placed third in Class 3, just behind Reed Springs and John Burroughs. The Spoofhounds aim to shoot for even higher honors as the 2018 season starts to bloom.



“Overall, expectations are really high,” coach Nathan Powell said. “We won conference, districts and had the highest finish we have ever had at the state meet last year. There’s no doubt that we, as a team, will be looking to do the same or even better, this year.” The issue that stands in the team’s way though, is replacing many key seniors that have graduated. “This year, we are hurting skill-wise due to the fact we have lost some excellent runners,” senior John Holtman said. “This year, we are working really hard to compensate for those losses, and hopefully, we can achieve just as much.”

Holtman is a key returning relay runner that was a part of that successful state run a year ago. Some other key returners on the boys side are senior Reece Bickford and junior Caleb Feuerbacher. Bickford was a triple medalist at state, and Feuerbacher was a vital distance runner for Maryville. “We should be fine. We are pretty deep on the guys side, and we have guys that are talented,” Powell said. “It should be another fantastic showing this year for the boys.” When looking at the upcoming season for the girls side, they also look to improve from last year. After a strong showing at conference and district meets, they are striving to do the same this year, and hope

they have a shot at a state berth. “We have got a good base from last year and have a really talented group of freshman coming up,” Powell said. “Hopefully, we will be a touch stronger than last year and make a push at conference and district time.” A strong aspect to this Spoofhound team is team chemistry. Not only does Powell say that this is important, but many of the athletes that are a part of this team think similarly. On a scale of one to 10, senior John Holtman said the team is looking bright. “It’s an eight, but I definitely think it can and will get better,” Holtman said.

This has always been an important goal of Powell when coaching: to find the will to work together and success will come with it. The Spoofhounds’ first home track meet of the season will come March 21. The teams that will be competing that day include Bishop-Leblond, Savannah and St. Joseph Benton. “The goal of this meet is just to get our kids out there and competing against other teams,” Powell said. “We always build for the end of the year. This will be a good launching point, but by no means do we have really high expectations for the first time out on the track. It’ll just be a good place to start.”

Indoor track and field season concludes at national meet

JUSTIN QUICK
Chief Reporter | @jquick88

An up-and-down weekend at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships provided a learning experience for four Northwest athletes. The championships began March 9 with daylong events. Junior Audrey Wichmann and sophomores Jordan Hammond and Hiba Mahgoub started the weekend off for the Bearcats. Wichmann participated in the high jump, clearing the 5-5 ¾-bar and ended in 14th place.



Hammond and Mahgoub both raced in the 400-meter dash prelims. Mahgoub finished in 19th place running a 57.14, while Hammond placed 11th, stopping the clock at 55.81. Both Bearcats fell short of qualifying for finals the next day. This was Mahgoub’s first time competing on the national stage and she said her nerves started to get to her. “I was really nervous going in to it because we had some of the best people in the nation compet-

ing,” Mahgoub said. “That’s the reason I did not really run a really good race because I don’t run good on too much nerves.” Coach Emily Peterson said that the nerves were to be expected from the younger duo. While nerves got to Mahgoub, Hammond struggled with another aspect during her heat. “She ran really well,” Peterson said. “It has been quite a while since she has been challenged at the break for the 200, so she got kind of jumbled up a little bit right after the 200 when they cut in. She hasn’t been exposed to that for a while because she’s been running so well.” As the 400-meter prelims closed out day one for the Bearcats, Wichmann, along with junior Kevin Shultz, prepare for day two. Wichmann got day two started early in the pentathlon with the 60-meter hurdles. She would finish the five events with 3,619 points, good enough for 10th place. The lone Bearcat on the men’s side, Shultz, ended the trip to nationals for the Bearcats in the high jump. After scratching his first jump, he was able to clear the

NEXT GAME (NW)

Northwest @ Emporia State
March 16, all day

opening height of 6-8 and move on to 6-9 ¾. Even though Shultz was able to clear a school record of 6-11½ just a few weeks earlier, he struggled to find his groove and scratched out on the second height. He finished in a tie for 13th place. The result was disappointing for Shultz. Peterson said it was a rough time for him, but said it was a good experience. “That was really the heart-breaking moment of the weekend,” Peterson said. “He could of done a lot better, and he knew that and wanted that for himself; we did too. That’s kind of one of those untalked about expectations and goals you have; he realizes now how good he can be at that event.” With indoor nationals complete, the focus shifts to outdoor for all the athletes. For Shultz, Hammond, Mahgoub and Wichmann, outdoor preparation will need to be accelerated with the first meet March 16 at Emporia State.



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Assistant track and field coach Emily Peterson traveled to Pittsburg, Kansas, over the weekend with four of her athletes for the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships at Pittsburg State University.

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NW SOFTBALL		
MIAA STANDINGS		
OVERALL MIAA		
Northeastern State.....	13-9	4-0
Central Oklahoma.....	17-7	7-1
Washburn.....	17-6	5-1
NORTHWEST.....	9-7	3-1
Missouri Western.....	7-16	3-1
Lindenwood.....	13-9	2-2
Central Missouri.....	9-13	1-1
Southwest Baptist.....	7-12	1-1
Emporia State.....	9-14	2-4
Missouri Southern.....	9-14	1-3
Pittsburg State.....	6-11	1-3
Nebraska Kearney.....	4-7	0-4
Lincoln.....	3-13	0-4
Fort Hays State.....	4-18	0-4

NW BASEBALL		
MIAA STANDINGS		
OVERALL MIAA		
Central Missouri.....	17-3	8-1
Missouri Southern.....	17-3	5-1
Pittsburg State.....	15-6	7-2
Central Oklahoma.....	14-8	7-2
NORTHWEST.....	10-9	7-2
Missouri Western.....	10-9	3-3
Nebraska Kearney.....	9-10	3-3
Emporia State.....	10-9	4-5
Northeastern State.....	11-9	3-6
Lindenwood.....	10-10	3-6
Southwest Baptist.....	8-13	2-17
Fort Hays State.....	9-11	1-8
Washburn.....	5-13	1-8

NW MEN'S TENNIS		
MIAA STANDINGS		
OVERALL MIAA		
Emporia State.....	9-1	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	8-1	1-0
Washburn.....	6-1	1-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	8-2	0-0
Wasburn.....	6-1	1-0
Lindenwood.....	4-5	0-1
NORTHWEST.....	2-5	0-1

NW WOMEN'S TENNIS		
MIAA STANDINGS		
OVERALL MIAA		
Central Oklahoma.....	9-1	2-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	7-4	2-0
Northeastern State.....	7-3	2-0
Washburn.....	6-2	2-0
Southwest Baptist.....	4-1	1-0
Fort Hays State.....	6-4	1-2
NORTHWEST.....	3-5	1-1
Missouri Western.....	8-6	0-2
Lindenwood.....	1-6	0-1
Emporia State.....	1-3	0-1

Four varsity starters set to return to Spoofhound court

JOSH REXROAT
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

After a sound season for the girls, Maryville boy's tennis hopes to keep the winning going.

As the spring weather nears, Maryville boy's tennis is starting its season.

The Spoofhounds have embraced the weather this month, starting to swing their rackets and begin practicing.

"So far, so good," coach Nicole McGiness said. "We have had a couple indoor practices where we haven't been able to do a lot, but once we get out, the boys are really good at practicing hard and getting some swings in."

The Spoofhounds have tackled this unpredictable Missouri weather since February and have managed to find some warm weather days and get outside.

"We have been outside a little less than we would like to be," junior Mason Walk said. "It has been cold these past few weeks; I think we have been outside enough, but I also think the more the better."

So far this season, the Spoofhounds have had six practices outside, and McGiness said that is normal to start the season.

"We actually went outside (March 7) and it was freezing," McGiness said. "But the boys wanted to hit and I wasn't going to say no. But six practices is fairly normal for this time of year."

The Spoofhounds' lineup may look different from previous years, as they will have 10 new players out of its 25-man roster.

The Spoofhounds will return four of its varsity starters, including Walk.

Walk has been a Spoofhound for three seasons and has seen promising sites from practices.

"As my third season on the team, compared to the last two, it has been going just as good," Walk said. "I hope we can get at least 10 more practices outdoors before Savannah, but so far, it has been going pretty good for the team."

As a returning starter for the Spoofhounds, Walk and the other returners are becoming leaders.

"The four on varsity are great leaders," McGiness said. "They're all great leaders. They show the new ones what to do, and they lead the team well."

The regular season is just around the corner for the Spoofhounds as their first match is over Easter break.

For their first match of the season, the Spoofhounds head to Sa-

NEXT GAMES
Maryville vs. Savannah (@ NWMSU)
March 20 @ 4 p.m.
Maryville @ Cameron
March 28 @ 8 a.m.

vannah to take on the Savages.

"With the matches over the break, the momentum should keep moving," McGiness said. "The momentum is important to keep and having the practices and matches over the break should help us."

The Spoofhounds are glad to be able to get this many practices outside and prepare for the season.

"It's been nice to get outdoors this much and prepare," Walk said. "It's hard because the court is rough, but it is still nice to get out and prepare for Savannah. I think, as a team, we are ready."

After Savannah, the team will head to Cameron March 28. The Spoofhounds start their home matches the next day as they take on St. Joseph Lafayette.

"Savannah is just going to be our first match," McGiness said. "We will work out all the kinks and work our way up from there into a good season."



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
Junior Peter Kempf works on his forehand in practice prior to the 2018 season.

Tennis finds its groove against Newman

WYATT BELL
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

After a sluggish start to the new season, Bearcat tennis looked to get back on track over the weekend with a matchup against Newman University in Wichita, Kansas.

The Bearcats did just that with the men sweeping Newman to earn nine points with six singles victories and three wins coming in doubles competition. The women picked up seven points on the day, going 7-2, with six coming via singles victories.

Bearcat Tennis head coach Mark Rosewell was more than pleased with the outcome.

"I thought that was the best we've played all year", Rosewell said. "We were playing indoors and we're really an outdoor team, so that's a good sign to improve."

Singles victories from the men came courtesy of Josef Altmann, Rahul Manoah, Franco Oliva, Agustin Velasco, Jorge Serrano and Youssef Sherif. Sherif and Oliva combined for doubles, as well as Altman/Manoah and Velasco and Bjorn Kurtze. Rosewell was particularly pleased with the win by Josef Altmann, who defeated

Newman's Lauri Soome 4-6, 7-5, 1-0 (10-7)

"Our number one singles, Joe, played real well, and he beat a really good guy from Finland," Rosewell said.

Junior Rahul Manoah was also very proud of the way the team has started to come together since the beginning of the season.

"Everybody is really up for the challenge," Manoah said. "The confidence level is looking much higher on the team and we are looking much better."

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Prior to each game, Mondesi Gutierrez participates in a meaningful pregame ritual of his own, etching three special letters into the dirt between first and second base.

'She's always right there next to me'

Memory of aunt follows Gutierrez in competition

TRENT SPINNER
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

As pregame silence falls over Bearcat Field and pressure only seems to build, No. 3 etches three simple letters into the dirt behind him: "TNM."

Traditions exist to honor and serve the beliefs of those who pride themselves on repeating these customs. For junior Mondesi Gutierrez, the tradition of "TNM" is to honor one of the most important people he's ever known: his aunt.

Before Gutierrez even stepped into the state of Missouri, he donned another college jersey. As a sophomore for the Orange Coast College Pirates, located in Orange County, California, his baseball career and life changed forever.

May 8, 2016, Norma Montenegro, a family woman, a bright face in time of hardship and an aunt (or "tia" as Gutierrez writes as the first initial, due to the fact that in Mexican culture, it shows respect for an aunt) of Gutierrez, passed away from stage four liver cancer at her

home in Los Angeles.

"I was in the same house when she passed away," Gutierrez said. "It was 9:26 in the morning; I had fallen asleep, but I was woken up at 6:30 a.m. I was trying to stay up all night because people knew it was her last moments. I don't know; it's just a feeling I wouldn't want anyone to go through, knowing their really close family member is passing away, but it just hits me hard."

At the time of her passing, Gutierrez was in the prime time of the baseball season for the Pirates. The first game after feeling the effects of her death, he began the tradition of writing her initials in the dirt to show that she was always with him.

Even though he created an outlet to honor her, it didn't take away all the tasks he was faced with. Struggling from sorrow, playing out the baseball season, working to pay for school and going to classes was a tough task to bear all at once for him. For almost anyone, wearing these weights alone would be enough to drag them to the depths of discouragement, but Gutierrez al-

ways had a shoulder to help lift the weight.

Andrew Eppenbach, his teammate and roommate at the time, was that saving grace. Gutierrez said he always knew

ball league known as the Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas (MINK) League.

One night, while the A's were on the road playing against the St. Joseph Mustangs, there was

“ You could see the love that he had for his aunt, and he wasn't afraid to show it, he wasn't afraid to say, 'This was my aunt, this was my blood, and I cared for her.'”
-Andrew Eppenbach

he could let it all out in the presence of Eppenbach. Even so, he's not afraid to show what his aunt means to him in public.

One moment that really hits deep inside of Gutierrez's heart is a memory from this past summer. During that time, he played for the Clarinda A's in a summer

a pitching change and the song "Stand by Me" aired over the intercom. For most, this just seemed like a normal occurrence. For Gutierrez, it meant so much more as that was one of his aunt's favorite songs.

SEE GUTIERREZ | A11

Seniors depart with unmatched legacy

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe_Andrews15

As the clock wound down at Bearcat Arena March 10, fans applauded the men's basketball program.

It wasn't congratulatory. It was appreciation. The top seeded Bearcats (27-4) had been upset by Minnesota State (24-9) in the opening round of the Central Region Tournament.

The loss marked the shortest postseason run through Northwest's five consecutive appearances in the tournament. The Bearcats' last first round loss occurred in the 2011-12 season.

"Hats off to Minnesota State," coach Ben McCollum said. "This is a tough place to play. We're 49-2 in the last 51 games. Unfortunately, the two were the last two games."

The defeat marked the end of an era for Northwest seniors. Brett Dougherty, Xavier Kurth, Chris-Ebou Ndow and Justin Pitts have been on a ride with Northwest through their time in the program.

The group helped the Bearcats to a 114-18 record during their career. The four have helped Northwest to five consecutive regular season MIAA titles and three straight conference tournament championships.

"Our senior class has done things no-one in the history of the MIAA has done, and probably nobody will ever do again," McCollum said. "It says a lot about them,



Seniors Chris-Ebou Ndow (left), Justin Pitts (middle), Xavier Kurth (right) and Brett Dougherty (not pictured) left a legacy on the Northwest men's basketball program, helping compile a 114-18 record in the past four years.

a lot about their character."

In the process, the group helped the program overcome adversity in the NCAA tournament. In their first two seasons, the Bearcats fell in the Sweet 16.

Northwest broke the wall down in their junior seasons, finishing the season with a program best record 35-1.

The four also helped bring the NCAA Division II National Championship home to Maryville in the process.

"It's a special group," Ndow

said. "It's a special group of guys I've been blessed to be a part of. We've made a lot of history, and we've done a lot of things we can look back on and be proud of."

The Bearcats stepped out to repeat the championship run at the beginning of the year, beginning with a trip to Durham, North Carolina for an exhibition game with Duke.

Northwest led for a brief few seconds before the Blue Devils began to live up to their name. The game served as an experi-

ence to remember for each member of the team.

"We beat a really good team," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "There is a reason they were national champions last year, and they have a chance to do it again this year."

The Bearcats opened the regular season on a 12-0 run, knocking off 2018 Sweet 16 programs Lincoln Memorial and Northern State.

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Offense shines in MIAA opener

JAMES HOWEY
Chief Reporter | @How_Eyeseet

The Northwest softball team began MIAA play with a prolific showing offensively that helped it go 3-1 against Lindenwood and Lincoln.

The Bearcats (9-7, MIAA 3-1) had a balanced hitting attack with a number of players putting together games with multiple hits and RBIs.

Coach Ryan Anderson credited the effort of his players all across the lineup.

"Everybody up and down the lineup got on base, so it was a good way to start conference play," Anderson said. "We just had keys hits, and it's one of those things that if they keep throwing strikes, then we got to hit them some place."

Sophomore Katlyn Weis went 8-16 and amassed six RBIs in the four games.

Weis is second on the team in batting average with .386 so far this season. Senior Abigail Gilson went 5-8 with six RBIs on the weekend and has a hitting average of .435, which is top 10 in the conference.

Senior Jessica Rawie said that her team feeds off the momentum of each other, getting going at the mound during a game.

"Once one person hits, it's sort of like a domino effect," Rawie said. "It boosts up our energy as we go along through each game and inning."

Freshman Lynnlee Parrott showed the depth the Bearcats have this season by having a breakout game in the first win over Lindenwood (13-9, MIAA 2-2). She went 3-4 with one RBI in the 9-2 victory.

Rawie gave credit to her teammate and said that everyone on the team is capable of having the same success when called upon.

"We have complete confidence in every single person on our team to step in and hit the ball," Rawie said. "We had a player get injured, and for her to have the confidence to step in is awesome."

Senior pitcher Taylor Blackford went 2-0 on the weekend, and improved her record to 4-4 on the season.

Blackford has 2.42 ERA this season. Sophomore Rachel Smith went 1-1, and suffered her first loss of the season 7-5 against the Lions.

Anderson said that both pitchers performed well against Lindenwood, which is ranked fourth in hitting in the MIAA.

"They put 11 runs on Missouri Western the day before, and then had 12 hits on us, but we still won," Anderson said. "It wasn't like they were struggling in the second game. Rachel threw well, but they just found holes. When someone hits, we need to keep pace with them."

Northwest will now play six challenging, out of conference opponents in St. Joseph March 16-18.

Anderson said that the Bearcats would need to be at top form to have success against the competition they will face in the three-day span.

"It's a bunch of teams playing well right now," Anderson said. "It's not by any means a coast team or day over there, and we got to show up."

NEXT GAME
NSIC/MIAA Cross Over @ Northwest March 17-18

